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NOVEMBER 30th, 1853. (Stated Meeting.)

THOMAS ROMNEY ROBINSON, D. D., PRESIDENT,
in the Chair.

RESOLVED, on the recommendation of the Council :—

1. That the election of Honorary Members shall take place only at the Stated Meeting in March, instead of in November, as determined by the Academy in the regulations for the election of Honorary Members adopted on the 11th of January, 1847.

2. That the Academy do authorize the expenditure of a sum not exceeding £50 for the purchase of photographic apparatus for the use of the Academy.

The Secretary read a letter from Lord Talbot de Malahide, presenting the following articles, which were lately exhibited in the Archæological Court of the Great Industrial Exhibition :—

From Dr. Daniel Wilson, late Secretary to the Society of Antiquaries of Scotland, Plaster Casts of—

1. Bronze circular shield, decorated with a classic group in low relief.

2. “Horn of tenure,” richly carved in ivory. It formerly belonged to Dr. Samuel Hibbert Ware.

3. Chessman, carved out of walrus tooth, found in the Isle of Skye.

4. Bronze armilla, snake pattern, found at Pitalpin, near Dundee, in 1732.

5. Bronze armlet, dug up in Argyleshire.

6. Bronze armlet, found in a cairn in Aberdeenshire.

7. Fragment of a pastoral staff made of oak, found in the tomb of Bishop Tullock, Kirkwall Cathedral, Orkney.

Electrotypes of—

8. A gold sceptre head, found at Cairnmure, Peebleshire, in 1806, along with three torques and other gold relics.

9. Head ring, or gorget of bronze; found in 1747, about seven feet below the surface, when digging a well at Stichel, Roxburghshire.—(See Official Catalogue, No. 1903.)

From Lord Talbot de Malahide, fac-similes in copper of bronze weapons found on the property of the Hon. H. T. Liddell, in the county of Northumberland, viz.:

10. A very large spear, with perforated blades; length, 19 inches; breadth, 3·5 inches.

11. A large spear, quite plain; length, 14·8 inches; breadth, 2·5 inches.

12. A javelin head, length, 7·9 inches; breadth, 1·4 inches.

13. The blade of a sword, with remains of handle, similar to those found in Ireland, length, 22·1 inches; breadth, 1·6 inches.

14. A sword, with hollow handle, balanced with a manilla, or piece of ring money, length of blade, 15·8 inches; breadth, 1·4 inches.

From Albert Way, Esq., casts in copper of the following bronzes:—

15. A half mould for casting a flat celt or palstave, with a lateral loop.

16. A half-mould for casting palstaves. The originals of these were found in 1800 in Danesfield, near Bangor, with a bronze palstave, but it had not been cast in either of the moulds. The original moulds were given by William, Bishop of Bangor, to the Marquis of Buckingham; and at the Stowe sale one moiety of each mould was purchased by the Hon. Richard Neville, and are in the Museum at Audley End; the others were purchased for the British Museum.—(See *Archæological Journal*, vol. vi. p. 386.)

17. A spear-head, with expanding blades; length, 11·8 inches; breadth, 1·9 inches.

18. A spear-head, with broad blade contracting towards point, length, 12·4 inches; breadth, 2·2 inches. The originals of these were found in Greece, and are now in the possession of the Hon. Robert Curzon, Jun., Sussex.

Cast, in metal, of a large armlet, now in the British Museum, made of copper or bronze, ornamented with red and yellow enamel; found with another of the same kind at Drummond Castle, Perthshire. Presented by Alexander Nesbitt, Esq., London.

Specimens of a curiously tied cloth, made of vegetable fibre, not unlike new Zealand matting; with portions of woollen binding and thread; found in a deep cutting in a turf bog in the county of Cavan. Presented by Christopher Fleming, M. D.

A large mass of iron conglomerate, composed chiefly of fine chain mail and sand; discovered about nine miles south of Coleraine, in the bed of the lower Bann River. Also an iron sword, found further down the same ford of Carnroe. Presented by Charles Ottley, Esq., as an addition to the collection of Antiquities made by the officers of the Drainage Commission.

Dr. Ball exhibited two specimens from the collection of T. L. Cooke, Esq., of Parsonstown. One of them, he considered, indicated the original form of the object called a Crotal, to which he had drawn attention on a former occasion;* and though the other resembled the former in shape, it appeared to be intended for some other purpose than merely making sound.

Rev. Dr. Graves remarked, that it was improbable that any of the class of objects referred to were Crotals; on the contrary, he believed they were a species of clasp, from their

* See Proceedings, vol. iii. p. 135.

general similitude to a peculiarly shaped fibula found in some ancient burial-places in France.

The President read the following paper on the construction of the Cassegrain Telescope :—

“ It is probably known to the Academy that an application has been made to Government, under the auspices of the Royal Society and the British Association, for the establishment of a large reflector in some convenient part of the British dominions, and its employment on a complete survey of the southern nebulae. In the course of the discussion which preceded this application, the construction of the telescope was an object of some importance, and I suggested that it might be desirable to try the Cassegrain : this was thought deserving of attention, and, in the hope that it may be acted on, I offer some rules for determining the dimensions of its parts, which will not be unimportant in so gigantic an experiment. They were investigated by me many years ago, when directing the arrangements of that which Mr. Grubb constructed for the Armagh Observatory. It is 15 inches aperture, and its performance is such as to justify an expectation that this form may be made of much greater magnitude.

“ The Cassegrain has been little used ; in fact, I know but of two, besides that referred to, which have been made of larger aperture than 6 inches : one of 18 inches by Lord Rosse, who, however, uses it as subsidiary to his larger telescopes, and has not given special attention to its improvement. The other was made by the elder Tulley about 1800 : it was 15 inches aperture, and 7 feet focus ; but it appears to have been indifferent ; for, according to the notes of William Walker (a competent judge) it ‘ showed Rigel like a shilling, and the companion was not seen at all.’ At that time, however, the proper method of supporting the great speculum was not known.